

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 03532 01 OF 02 252102Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 NSC-05 SS-15 PM-04

OPR-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

/058 W

-----252128 049625 /70

O O 252048Z FEB 77 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5957

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL STUTTGART IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CASC, UG, GW

SUBJECT: AMIN DETAINS AMERICANS: BONN STATUS REPORT

2000 ZULU, FEBRUARY 25.

REF: BONN 3514

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN KAMPALA (ELLERKMANN) WAS JUST PASSED TO US BY THE FONOFF. IT WAS APPARENTLY DRAFTED IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST (PER STATE 39157 NOTAL) AND DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION WHILE TEXT OF AMIN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER WAS RELAYED TO BONN. ELLERKMANN HAS ALSO SENT A STATUS REPORT ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN UGANDA. A SUMMARY OF THAT REPORT FOLLOWS IN PARA. 2.

BEGIN TEXT:

"1. LIST OF AMERICANS IN UGANDA OF DECEMBER

1976 (WITH CORRECTIONS) HANDED OVER TO MR.

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PAGE 02 BONN 03532 01 OF 02 252102Z

CUBBISON FROM U.S.-EMBASSY NAIROBI ON FEB.

8 IS STILL CORRECT, ACCORDING MY KNOWLEDGE.

NUMBER OF AMERICANS THEREFORE AROUND 200.

2. AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE

IN NO MORE DANGER THAN WESTERN

EUROPEANS (BRITISH, ITALIANS, FRENCH AND

GERMANS). AMIN REACTED TO CONDEMNATION BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG WITH GREAT ANNOYANCE, BUT SAME APPLIES TO OUT-SPOKEN COMMENTS BY THE BRITISH AND SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES. PRESENT INTERNAL UNREST, WITH ALMOST DAILY KILLINGS OF ACHOLI AND LANGI, SEEMS TO BE MORE OF TRIBAL AND RELIGIOUS NATURE. FOREIGNERS, EXCEPT FOR ONE INCIDENT WHICH AFFECTED THE GERMAN COMMUNITY, HAVE NOT BEEN MOLESTED SO FAR. (EMBASSY COMMENT: SEE BONN 3218 NOTAL.) SINCE AMIN IS TRYING HARD TO COVER UP THE MURDER OF ARCHBISHOP LUWUM AND TWO MINISTERS AND SATISFY WORLD OPINION, HE CANNOT AFFORD NOW TO ADD TO HIS TROUBLES OTHER DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM MISTREATMENT OF FOREIGNERS IN UGANDA. WESTERN CITIZENS WOULD ONLY BE ENDANGERED SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF BE UP FOR GRABS, AND EVEN THEN NOT FROM GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES BUT FROM ARMED BANDITS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO LOOT THE HOMES OF EUROPEANS. THIS DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER, SEEMS UNLIKELY AT THE MOMENT.

3. SINCE MOST AMERICANS IN THE COUNTRY ARE MISSIONARIES AND DO NOT LIVE IN KAMPALA, THEY SEEM RELATIVELY SAFE NOW.

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PAGE 03 BONN 03532 01 OF 02 252102Z

4. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT ANY MEASURES TAKEN BE COORDINATED WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN BONN. THIS EMBASSY TODAY SUGGESTED TO THE MINISTRY THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING ONLY, THE WIVES AND THE CHILDREN OF GERMANS LEAVE UGANDA FOR KENYA. THIS WOULD BE IN A NON-SPECTACULAR WAY, IN ORDER NOT TO SUGGEST THAT THE GERMAN COMMUNITY WAS LEAVING UGANDA.

5. EMBASSY JUST HEARD THAT AMIN REQUESTED ALL AMERICANS IN UGANDA TO ATTEND A MEETING IN THE CONFERENCE CENTRE IN KAMPALA ON MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY. EMBASSY SUGGESTS NOT TO BE TOO ALARMED BECAUSE AMIN DID SAME WITH BRITISH WHEN BRITAIN SEVERED RELATIONS WITH UGANDA. AMIN REQUESTED BRITISH TO STAY. SO FAR THIS EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN INVITED TO THE MEETING, AND DOES NOT EXPECT

TO BE INVITED AS HAPPENED WITH THE FRENCH

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PAGE 01 BONN 03532 02 OF 02 252109Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03532

AMBASSADOR WITH THE MEETING OF THE BRITISH.

AS SOON AS EMBASSY HEARS MORE ABOUT MEETING

REPORTS WILL FOLLOW.

ELLERKMANN"

END TEXT:

2. THE FONOFF HAS ALSO PASSED US A REPORT FROM
AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN ON THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN
KAMPALA. ACCORDING TO ELLERKMANN:

A. AMIN MAY BE CONSIDERING A MOBILIZATION OF
HIS ARMED FORCES, NOT BECAUSE OF THE RUMORED TANZANIAN
THREAT, BUT FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

B. THE LANGIS AND ACHOLIS ARE RESISTING AS
CIVILIANS AND WITHIN THE ARMY. IN MUBENDE, LANGIS AND
ACHOLIS FOUGHT WITH NUBIAN TROOPS. SOME NUBIANS WERE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 03532 02 OF 02 252109Z

KILLED (AT LEAST 100, IF NOT 1,000) AND THE LANGIS AND ACHOLIS FLED.

C. LYBIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO AMIN IS VIEWED WITH GREAT DISTRUST BY MOST UGANDANS. QADHAFI AND ORTHODOX ISLAM ARE NOT POPULAR WITH THE POPULATION.

D. REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ARE VERY MUCH IN THE PICTURE. A RECEPTION BY THE SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE ON FEB. 23 WAS WELL ATTENDED BY OFFICIAL UGANDANS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE RESEARCH -- AMIN'S SECRET POLICE. THE CHINESE, WHO CLAIM TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ANY SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO UGANDA, WERE ALSO PRESENT, AS WERE THE EAST GERMANS.

E. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO SIGN THAT ARABS OR COMMUNISTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION, THEY CAN CERTAINLY BE EXPECTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.

F. THE ACP CONFERENCE ENDED PREMATURELY ON FEB. 23 AND MOST DELEGATIONS HAVE LEFT.

G. THE EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF FURTHER INITIATIVES IN THE UN, HRC, OAU, ETC. WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PASSED UP. IF THE FRG IS CRITICIZED FOR STATEMENTS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, THIS CANNOT HELP BUT AFFECT THE EMBASSY'S EFFECTIVENESS.
STOESSEL

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Subject: AMIN DETAINS AMERICANS: BONN STATUS REPORT 2000 ZULU, FEBRUARY 25.
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